

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 14-20 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,976,312 (Shimizu). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over this reference. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of objected to Claim 3. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

G. Gregory Schivley

Reg. No. 27,382

Timothy D. MacIntyre

Reg. No. 42,824

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

TDM/mas